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Programme planning

Proposed revisions to the biennial programme plans and priorities for the period 2006-2007

Summary

Further to General Assembly resolution 58/269, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, inter alia, a biennial programme plan to cover two years, the present document contains a consolidation of the biennial programme plans for the period 2006-2007 of four programmes that have been subject to revision as a result of decisions taken by executive direction or the policymaking organs responsible for the programmes in question.

The proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan (A/59/6/Rev.1) concern programmes 7 (Economic and social affairs), 11 (Environment), 14 (Economic and social development in Africa) and 16 (Economic development in Europe).

* A/61/50 and Corr.1

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Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

Background

7.1 At its sixth session, held in New York from 13 to 24 February 2006, the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of its report to the Economic and Social Council.[1] As that resolution had programme budget implications, the resulting modifications to subprogramme 9 of programme 7, Economic and Social Affairs, are presented below. It is expected that the resolution will be endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in July 2006.

Subprogramme 9
Sustainable forest management

Objective of the Organization: to advance long-term political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests at the global, regional and national levels and to promote the achievement of the internationally agreed global objectives on forests

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective international dialogue on sustainable forest management and facilitation of the adoption and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument	(a) (i) The number of resolutions, decisions and other outcomes of intergovernmental bodies that are based on policy options proposed by the subprogramme (ii) The number of countries providing proposals for the indicative elements of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (iii) The number of countries reporting on policies, measures and goals in support of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
(b) Enhanced monitoring and assessment of and reporting on internationally agreed actions for the implementation of sustainable forest management, based on a common understanding of forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions, including through the further development and use of established criteria and indicators developed by regional processes	(b) Increased number of reports, including case studies, submitted by countries and other stakeholders that utilize forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 22* (E/2006/42).

(c) Increased international cooperation, collaboration, coordination and knowledge exchange among Governments, major groups, organizations, instruments and processes, including through activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests	(c) Number of partnerships, collaborative activities and country and organization-led initiatives undertaken to support the international forest policy dialogue

Strategy

7.2 The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

(a) Supporting efforts to achieve the internationally shared global objectives on forests, including: reversal of loss of forest cover; enhancement of forest-based economic, social and environment benefits; significant increase of the area of sustainably managed forests; and reversal of the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management, in particular through effective implementation of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(b) Promoting greater awareness of and supporting the implementation of forest-related aspects of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, as well as those stemming from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests processes and the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(c) Facilitating the adoption and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

(d) Providing substantive support for continued policy development, dialogue and agreements among Governments, international organizations and other interested parties, including major groups;

(e) Participating in and servicing the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues among relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments;

(f) Facilitating, monitoring, assessing and reporting on the progress of national, regional and global actions in sustainable forest development, as well as undertaking research on and analysis and dissemination of that data and information, including through the United Nations Forum on Forests web site;

(g) Contributing to strengthened international cooperation, including by catalysing financial resources and fostering North-South and public-private partnerships in sustainable forest management;

(h) Providing substantive support for the mobilization and exchange of technical and scientific knowledge and information, including through the provision of technical advisory services, upon request, and conducting training courses, seminars and workshops;

(i) Encouraging and assisting countries, including those with low forest cover, to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies, increase the area of forests under sustainable management and reduce forest

degradation and the loss of forest cover, in order to maintain and improve their forest resources with a view to enhancing the benefits of forests to meet present and future needs, in particular the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, whose livelihoods depend on forests.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 9
Sustainable forest management

General Assembly resolutions

57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2000/35	Report on the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
2005/29	Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fifth session and provisional agenda for its sixth session

Programme 11
Environment

Background

11.1 Certain revisions to the biennial programme plan for programme 11, Environment, for the period 2006-2007 are proposed owing to the organizational restructuring the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) underwent in September 2005 to better align the structure with priorities and to further strengthen and streamline programme implementation. The restructuring basically entailed: consolidating organizational entities within UNEP that deal with natural resources; consolidating cross-cutting issues such as poverty and environment and environmental education and training; relocating the Regional Seas Programme from subprogramme 6 to subprogramme 3; and placing the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, heretofore implemented under subprogramme 3, under subprogramme 1. Revisions to programme 11 of the 2006-2007 biennial programme plan relate to the modification of subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 6.

11.2 The proposed revisions are submitted in line with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 58/269, in which the Assembly requested the Committee for Programme and Coordination, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved by the Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget.

11.3 Updates of mandates adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP and the General Assembly subsequent to adoption of the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 by the Assembly in its resolution 59/275 form part of the revisions and are reflected in the listing of mandates in the present report.

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

Objective of the Organization: to ensure that environmental problems and emerging issues of wide international significance receive appropriate and earliest possible consideration by decision makers at the national and international levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced awareness of and cooperation on environmental problems and emerging issues among Governments and the public to better support sustainability and the survival, dignity and livelihood of individuals	(a) (i) Increased number of references to environmental assessments in intergovernmental forums and the media and visits to reports available on the Internet (ii) Increased number of Governments and scientists involved in environmental assessment processes
(b) Development of self-sustaining data and information systems to improve accessibility to credible and comparable data and use of indicators for better understanding and decision-making regarding environmental issues	(b) (i) Increased number of users accessing data and monitoring networks (ii) Increased number of downloads of core sets of data and indicators used by UNEP
(c) Increased participation or involvement in environmental assessment and reporting in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to better achieve the targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development	(c) Increased number of institutions from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (i) able to collect, process and analyse data and (ii) involved in environmental assessment processes
(d) Strengthened capacity of international, regional and national institutions to analyse the biodiversity status	(d) Increased number of biodiversity collaborating centres and partnerships with major stakeholders established by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Strategy

11.4 The Division of Early Warning and Assessment is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. The strategy in the biennium 2006-2007 will be:

(a) To strengthen the scientific basis for decision-making by undertaking timely, policy-relevant and scientifically credible environmental assessments;

(b) To enable Governments to develop improved environmental data and information systems for early warning and decision-making by supporting monitoring and data collection systems and developing indicators for assessments and reporting;

(c) To support environmental governance for sustainable development by strengthening cooperation with and building the capacity of national, subregional, regional and international institutions for assessment, monitoring, data management and reporting;

(d) To continue the development of the information and other services provided by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in partnership with collaborating centres, especially in developing countries, and in cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and other agencies;

(e) To promote the implementation of the outcome of the international environmental governance process in enhancing delivery of the capacity-building initiatives of UNEP.

Subprogramme 2
Policy development and law

Objective of the Organization: to enhance, within the framework of the existing UNEP mandate, the capacity of member States and the international community to develop and improve policy and legal frameworks to address new and continuing environmental challenges in the context of sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Further development of environmental law, including the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and its implementation through effective participation of legal stakeholders	(a) Increased evidence of integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in legal regimes through the participation of legal stakeholders in the development and implementation of environmental law
(b) Strengthened capacity of Governments and national, subregional and regional institutions, networks and coordinating mechanisms in the implementation of environmental policies, legislation and management practices	(b) (i) Increased number of countries, institutions and other stakeholders supported in the implementation of environmental policies and legislation (ii) Increased number of environmental education and training programmes offered through national education systems and institutions of learning

(c) Enhanced capacity of policymakers to respond to environmental challenges and internationally agreed development goals through the development of new and revised policy instruments, taking into account socio-economic concerns, and incorporating such policies at the national level into development strategies	(c) Increased number of national policies and development strategies that incorporate the environmental dimension
(d) Improved engagement of major groups in the development and implementation of environmental policy and law	(d) Increased number of major groups that participate effectively at the regional and global levels in policy development of UNEP
(e) Enhanced understanding by all partners of the need to incorporate the environmental dimension in efforts to meet internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	(e) Increased inclusion of environmental objectives in outcomes (e.g., resolutions, decisions, policy strategies and guidelines) of United Nations intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies and improved implementation thereof

Strategy

11.5 The Division of Policy Development and Law is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. The strategy in the biennium 2006-2007 will be to empower, in collaboration with Governments and other partners and through inter-agency cooperation, a broad cross section of legal stakeholders, policymakers and major groups to participate effectively in the development, analysis, implementation, compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws and policies on sustainable development by:

(a) Providing opportunities for interaction, options for consideration, required information, training and other facilities;

(b) Supporting environmental education programmes initiatives which are aimed at transforming conservation visions and aspirations for poverty reduction;

(c) Promoting the implementation of the outcome of the international environmental governance process in enhancing delivery of the capacity-building initiatives of UNEP;

(d) Strengthening national institutions (including legal frameworks) and the capacity of practitioners, for example, judges, lawyers and major groups.

Subprogramme 3
Policy implementation

Objective of the Organization: to enhance implementation of environmental policies, legislation and management practices and to mitigate the environmental impact of emergencies and post-conflict situations on sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened capacity of national and regional institutions, networks and coordinating mechanisms in the implementation of environmental management practices	(a) Increased number of partnerships, collaborating mechanisms and networks engaged in implementing environmental management measures at the regional and subregional levels
(b) Improved participation, coordination and capacity at the international and national levels for the integrated management of water resources and protection of the marine environment	(b) (i) Increased number of action plans, partnerships, networks and coordinating mechanisms for integrated water resources management (ii) Number of national policies, global and regional guidelines and implementation strategies developed to implement the Global Programme of Action at the national and local levels
(c) Enhanced capacity at the international, regional, subregional and national levels to prevent, reduce the risk of, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies and to conduct post-disaster/conflict assessments and clean-up	(c) (i) The number of activities conducted by UNEP, carried out with inter-agency collaboration, as appropriate, to assist countries, subregions and regions to prevent, reduce the risk of, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies caused by natural disasters and human-induced incidents (ii) The number of environmental post-conflict assessments conducted (iii) The number of follow-up activities to implement post-conflict assessment conclusions
(d) In consultation with the secretariats and Conferences of Parties to the multilateral environmental agreements, enhanced synergies between regional seas programmes and other regional environmental agreements and UNEP, multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental organizations in developing and implementing joint programmes and activities	(d) Increased number of regional seas programmes and other regional environmental agreements benefiting from cooperation with UNEP, multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental organizations

Strategy

11.6 The Division of Environmental Policy Implementation is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. The strategy in the biennium 2006-2007 will be:

(a) To promote a UNEP-wide integrated approach to the implementation of the outcome of the international environmental governance process in enhancing delivery of the capacity-building initiatives of UNEP;

(b) To enhance capacities of Governments and other stakeholders to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;

(c) To address capacity and institutional development needs at the international, regional, subregional and national levels to prevent, reduce the risk of, prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies caused by natural disasters, human-induced accidents and conflicts;

(d) To integrate environmental considerations into post-conflict reconstruction by conducting environmental assessments and identifying strategic issues for environmental assistance, including environmental risk reduction, rehabilitation and capacity-building;

(e) To promote the participation of national Governments and other stakeholders in special projects and partnerships to address specific needs for environmental management and sustainable development.

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

Objective of the Organization: to strengthen implementation of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements and to promote and enhance interlinkages and synergies between them and with UNEP, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the Conferences of Parties

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) In consultation with the secretariats and Conferences of Parties to the multilateral environmental agreements, enhanced collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats supported by UNEP	(a) Increased number of collaborative activities among multilateral environmental agreements implemented with UNEP support
(b) Strong partnerships among global, regional and national stakeholders for the strengthening of linkages and synergies, including harmonization of reporting	(b) Increased number of arrangements reached between multilateral environmental agreements, UNEP and national authorities which promote linkages and synergies
(c) UNEP programmes take account of socio-economic driving factors in implementation of multilateral environmental agreements	(c) Increased number of joint programmes with the multilateral environmental agreements which address the links between poverty and the environment

(d) Strengthened capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in intergovernmental negotiations through implementation by UNEP of joint programmes with multilateral environmental agreements	(d) Increased number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition participating effectively at multilateral environmental agreement meetings and multilateral environmental agreement-related meetings supported by UNEP

Strategy

11.7 The Division of Environmental Conventions is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. The strategy in the biennium 2006-2007 will be:

(a) To support the ratification and promote the implementation and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements, giving priority to those administered by UNEP and taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition as well as the UNEP guidelines on compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) In cooperation with the secretariats and Conferences of Parties to the multilateral environmental agreements, to work to enhance coordination of environmental conventions at the global, regional and national levels;

(c) In consultation with the secretariats and Conferences of Parties to the multilateral environmental agreements, to enhance collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements on environment and poverty alleviation towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

(d) To enhance support for participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) To assist and support national Governments in implementation of environmental policies that promote enforcement of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements;

(f) To increase the use of regional seas conventions, action plans and regional mountain agreements as a platform for coordinated regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements as well as mandates of intergovernmental organizations and other global and regional initiatives;

(g) To promote the implementation of the outcome of the international environmental governance process in enhancing delivery of the capacity-building initiatives of UNEP.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

2997 (XXVII)	Institutional and financial arrangements for international environmental cooperation

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
S-19/2	Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21
53/242	Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
55/198	Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 6)
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/251	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session
58/217	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
59/230	Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 6)
59/237	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/15	Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster
60/30	Oceans and the law of the sea (subprogrammes 1 and 3)
60/98	Effects of atomic radiation
60/99	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
60/124	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
60/125	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
60/130	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
60/142	Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

60/189	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-third session
60/192	International Year of Planet Earth (2008)
60/193	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
60/194	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
60/195	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
60/196	Natural disasters and vulnerability (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
60/197	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
60/198	Sustainable mountain development (subprogrammes 2, 3, 5 and 6)
60/200	International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006 (subprogrammes 3, 5 and 7)
60/205	Science and technology for development
60/209	Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
60/212	South-South Cooperation
60/215	Towards global partnerships
60/222	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
60/223	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
60/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Governing Council decisions

SS.VI/1	Malmö Ministerial Declaration
SS.VII/1	International environmental governance (subprogrammes 2 and 5)
SS.VII/4	Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (subprogrammes 2 and 6)
SS.VIII/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance
SS.VIII/2	Small island developing States
19/1	Nairobi Declaration on the Role and the Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme
20/6	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of institution-building
20/12	Implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system
20/17	Views of the Governing Council on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements
20/25	Freshwater (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4)
20/28	Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs (subprogrammes 1, 2, 3 and 6)
20/29	Policy and advisory services of the United Nations Environment Programme in key areas of economics, trade and financial services
20/33	Stable, adequate and predictable funding for the United Nations Environment Programme
21/18	Implementation of the Malmö Ministerial Declaration
21/20	Governance of the United Nations Environment Programme and implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242
21/21	International environmental governance
21/24	Policy and advisory services in key areas of institution-building (subprogrammes 2, 3, 4 and 6)
22/4	Chemicals
	III: Lead (subprogrammes 2 and 4)
22/5	Enhancing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme on forest-related issues (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 6)

22/9	Support to Africa (subprogrammes 1-6)
22/10	Poverty and the environment in Africa (subprogrammes 2 and 5)
22/12	Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (subprogrammes 2, 3 and 5)
22/15	International Year of Deserts and Desertification (subprogrammes 2, 3, 5 and 7)
23/1	Implementation of decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance
	I: Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building
	IV: Strengthening the financing of the United Nations Environment Programme
23/5	Small island developing States (subprogrammes 2 and 3)
23/7	Strengthening environmental emergency response and developing disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and early-warning systems in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (subprogrammes 1, 3 and 5)
23/10	Poverty and the environment

Subprogramme 1
Environmental assessment and early warning

Governing Council decisions

SS.VIII/1	II: Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme
20/1	Global Environment Outlook
22/1	II: Global assessment of the state of the marine environment
23/1	II: Strengthening the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme
23/6	Keeping the world environmental situation under review

Subprogramme 2
Policy development and law

General Assembly resolutions

58/158	International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
60/47	Question of Antarctica

60/210	Women in development

Governing Council decisions

SS.VII/5	Enhancing civil society engagement in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme
SS.VIII/1	VI: Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the Environmental Management Group
21/23	Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)
22/16	Environment and cultural diversity
22/17	Governance and law
	I: Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 57/251 on the report of the seventh special session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
	II: Implementation of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)
23/1	VI: Enhanced coordination across the United Nations system and the Environmental Management Group
23/11	Gender equality in the field of the environment

Subprogramme 3
Policy implementation

Governing Council decisions

21/27	Compliance with and enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements
21/29	Establishment of a regional seas programme for the Central-East Pacific region
22/1	Early warning assessment and monitoring
	III: United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring System
	IV: Post-conflict environmental assessment
	V: Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories
22/2	Water

	I: Water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme
	II: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
	III: Regional Seas Programmes
	IV: Coral reefs
	V: Marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution
22/8	Further improvement of environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, assessment, response and mitigation
23/2	Updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme

Subprogramme 6
Environmental conventions

General Assembly resolutions

60/201	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
60/202	Convention on Biological Diversity

Governing Council decisions

20/18	Environmental conventions
21/1	Land degradation: support for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
21/8	Biosafety
21/9	Atmosphere
22/3	Climate and atmosphere
	I: Adaptation to climate change
	II: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
22/11	Sustainable development of the Arctic
23/1	V: Multilateral environmental agreements

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

Background

14.1 The revision to the biennial programme plan for programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, results from Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) resolution 844 (XXXIX) on repositioning ECA to better respond to Africa's priorities. In particular, the ministerial statement of the 2006 ECA Conference of African Ministers stressed the urgent need for the Commission to enhance the institutional capacities of African countries to collect, compile and use quality statistics for improved economic management.

14.2 Consequently, the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 is being revised: (a) to include a new subprogramme on statistics (subprogramme 9); and (b) to shift expected accomplishment (b) and indicator of achievement (b) of subprogramme 1 to the new subprogramme 9.

14.3 The subprogramme will strive to enhance the institutional capacities of African countries to collect, compile and use quality statistics for improved economic management and tracking progress towards internationally agreed development goals in accordance with international standards. The lead will be taken in the implementation of the new reference regional strategic framework for statistical capacity-building in Africa and providing adequate support to countries to design, adopt and implement their national strategy for the development of statistics. In achieving the expected accomplishments, timely and accurate information, analyses and policy recommendations will be provided in addition to capacity-building assistance to develop national policies. In addition, the subprogramme will aim at enhancing capacity for the collection of sex-disaggregated and gender-responsive statistics in socio-economic groups.

Subprogramme 1
Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

Objective of the Organization: to achieve greater and sustained economic growth for poverty reduction and sustainable development in Africa

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved capacity of member States to design, implement and monitor pro-poor development policies consistent with the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992 and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development	(a) (i) Increased number of countries and regional organizations able to design and implement sound policies and programmes for achieving higher growth and poverty reduction (ii) Increased number of countries with poverty reduction strategy papers reflecting a deeper assessment of poverty and growth issues

	(iii) Increased number of policies, instruments and initiatives for prudent fiscal and debt management and resource mobilization

Strategy

14.4 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Trade, Finance and Economic Development Division, heretofore called the Economic and Social Policy Division. The strategy will focus on the following three priority areas: (a) tracking regional and country economic performance in order to provide timely and accurate information, analysis and options for short-term policy design and for other nationally owned development programmes in the context of implementation of the objectives of poverty reduction strategy papers; (b) strengthening poverty reduction strategies, including programmes to empower the poor and to improve the delivery of basic social services targeted at the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and (c) promoting measures to enhance financial resource mobilization for development, including reduction of debt to sustainable levels, promoting mutual accountability and aid effectiveness. The strategy will also include research, advocacy and policy analyses on emerging issues, including an examination of the implications of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related infectious diseases for the development process. Technical assistance, with a focus on strengthening national capacities for economic and social policy formulation and implementation, will be provided to member States, at their request, with particular attention to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

Subprogramme 9
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: to improve the production, dissemination and use of key demographic, social, economic and environmental statistics, including the Millennium Development Goals indicators, in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices, as well as to promote the implementation of the new reference regional strategic framework for statistical capacity-building in Africa

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
Enhancement of the statistical capacities of African countries for better economic management and tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	Increased number of countries compiling the minimum required data set and complying with the 1993 System of National Accounts

Strategy

14.5 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the newly established African Centre for Statistics. The statistics component of the ECA work programme was heretofore carried out under subprogramme 1, Facilitating economic and social policy analysis. Subprogramme 9 will strive to enhance the

institutional capacities of African countries to collect, compile and use quality statistics for improved economic management and tracking progress towards internationally agreed development goals in accordance with international standards. Timely and accurate information, analyses and policy recommendations, as well as capacity-building assistance to develop national policies, will be provided in the effort to achieve the expected accomplishments.

14.6 The strategy will include: policy analysis and advocacy; institution-building and training; knowledge networking, sharing of information and experiences and disseminating best practices; and providing technical assistance, including advisory services to member States and their institutions. The subprogramme will also coordinate and cooperate with other United Nations organizations, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional intergovernmental organizations and relevant international organizations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT) and Paris 21.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development
49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development
54/204	Business and development
55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/270	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
58/142	Women and political participation
58/218	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
59/22	Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie
59/213	Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome

60/2	Policies and programmes involving youth
60/34	Public administration and development
60/130	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
60/157	The right to development
60/204	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
60/205	Science and technology for development
60/210	Women in development
60/211	Human resources development
60/212	South-South cooperation
60/222	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
60/223	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
60/228	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
60/235	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management for the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts (subprogrammes 1 and 9)
2000/27	Basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels
2001/21	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits
2003/49	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

2005/48	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

790 (XXIX)	Capacity-building for statistical development in Africa
798 (XXX)	Promotion of private investment in Africa
837 (XXXIV)	Development of the African Initiative
838 (XXXV)	Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005
841 (XXXVI)	Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2004-2005: ministerial statement
844 (XXXIX)	Repositioning ECA to better respond to Africa's priorities
845 (XXXIX)	Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa
846 (XXXIX)	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Subprogramme 1
Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

General Assembly resolutions

54/197	Towards a stable international financial system, responsive to the challenges of development, especially in the developing countries
58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
58/202	International financial system and development
58/221	Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005
58/222	Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)
58/236	Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
58/237	2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa
60/187	External debt crisis and development

60/188	Follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
60/194	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/13	National and international cooperation for social development: implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
2003/17	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic Commission for Africa resolutions

799 (XXX)	Promoting human development in Africa
815 (XXXI)	Mobilization of resources for industrialization in Africa
831 (XXXIII)	Economic Report on Africa 1999
832 (XXXIII)	HIV/AIDS in Africa
840 (XXXV)	Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

Background

16.1 At its annual session in February 2004, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) decided to commission a comprehensive report on the state of ECE to determine what changes to its role, mandate and functions were necessary in the light of the changes in the European institutional architecture.

16.2 In July 2005, on the basis of an external evaluation report on the state of ECE issued at the end of June, the States members of the Commission decided to launch a negotiating process on ECE reform. For this purpose, an Open-ended Negotiating Committee, which met regularly from 20 September to 22 November 2005, was established. At its last meeting, the Committee successfully concluded its work by agreeing on a workplan on ECE reform. Based on the recommendations on the role, mandate and functions of ECE reflected in the report on the state of ECE, the Commission adopted decision E/ECE/1434/Rev.1.

16.3 The General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248 X, welcomed the workplan on reform of ECE adopted by the Commission, decided that the Commission should implement the adopted measures outlined in its decision and, to that end, requested the Secretary-General to allocate the requisite resources within section 19,

Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

16.4 The reform actions taken include remodelling the ECE governance structure, improving cost-effectiveness and transparency, redefining the priorities of the programme of work and fostering coordination with other organizations also active in Europe. These actions match the spirit of the broader United Nations reform effort now under way. Its main features can be outlined as follows:

(a) Substantial streamlining of the overall governance structure of ECE through: (i) the establishment of an Executive Committee which will take over the functions until now performed by the Bureau of the Commission, the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work and the Steering Committee; and (ii) the biennialization of the sessions of the Commission;

(b) Strengthening of accountability and transparency in order to ensure the coherence and cost effectiveness of the activities of the organization; this will be achieved mainly through the governance functions to be exercised by the new Executive Committee and, on the part of the secretariat, through more reporting and improved communication, as well as by establishing a Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit within the Office of the Executive Secretary;

(c) Major restructuring of the ECE programme of work, guided by the priorities agreed upon by the States members of the Commission, reflected in the following programme shifts: (i) discontinuation of two subprogrammes (Economic analysis and Industrial restructuring and enterprise development); (ii) establishment of a new subprogramme, Economic cooperation and integration, to address the specific development problems of countries with transition/emerging market economies; (iii) strengthening of two subprogrammes of highest priority for member States (Environment and Transport) and a moderate reinforcement of three other subprogrammes (Trade, Energy and Timber) for specific areas of activities, as identified in the workplan; and (iv) maintenance of two subprogrammes at their present size (Statistics and Human settlements);

(d) Fostering of coordination and cooperation of ECE with other organizations (both part of the United Nations system and external to it) also active in Europe to maximize synergies, avoid duplication and, thereby, ensuring an effective complementation of work.

16.5 All of the above-mentioned measures are proposed within existing resources and are therefore expected to be implemented through the redeployment of existing ECE resources. The overall rationale is to discontinue subprogrammes where ECE has no comparative advantages vis-a-vis other international organizations, to launch new activities corresponding to emerging needs of the membership and to strengthen areas which are considered high priority by member States and where ECE has a comparative advantage.

16.6 These substantive shifts in the programme of work of ECE reflect the willingness of its member States to: (i) adapt the organization to the new needs of its membership, (ii) adjust to the changing institutional landscape of the ECE region; and (iii) respond further to the important mandates emanating from the General

Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other major global conferences and summits, which require follow-up and implementation at the regional level.

16.7 The proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 are as follows: replacement of subprogramme 4, Economic analysis, by a newly established subprogramme, Economic cooperation and integration; discontinuation of subprogramme 9, Industrial restructuring and enterprise development; and renaming of subprogramme 6, Trade development, to be called Trade, subprogramme 7, Timber, to be called Timber and forestry, and subprogramme 8, Human settlements, to be called Housing, land management and population. The activities in the field of population previously carried out under the former subprogramme 4, Economic analysis, are not discontinued; rather, they are moved to subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population. The logical framework for subprogramme 8, however, remains unchanged.

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: to promote a more conducive policy, financial and regulatory environment for economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced sharing of best practices and their promotion among member countries on issues dealt with by the subprogramme	(a) Increased number of best practices discussed and disseminated under the subprogramme
(b) Adoption by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration of practical and action-oriented policy recommendations/guidelines on issues placed on its 2008-2009 work programme	(b) Set of policy recommendations/guidelines adopted by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration
(c) Increased implementation of the ECE recommendations on matters dealt with by the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration	(c) (i) Increased number of practical steps taken by Governments and other stakeholders to implement recommendations of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (ii) Number of requests acted on for policy-advisory services and capacity-building activities aimed at assisting countries to implement recommendations of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Strategy

16.8 The responsibility for the subprogramme will be vested in the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division. In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will focus on key aspects of economic development and integration

and mainly on countries of the region with economies in transition. It will deliver policy advice, facilitate policy dialogue and exchange experiences and best practices as well as develop relevant guidelines. To this end, the subprogramme will facilitate application of the experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development and elaborate on this basis recommendations aimed at creating policy and a financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation. Work under the subprogramme will be demand driven, focus on specific topics and, subject to the multi-year work programme of the ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, aim at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by: (a) promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation; (b) facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises; (c) facilitating effective corporate governance and regulatory policies, including those in the financial sector; and (d) promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, as well as intellectual property rights.

16.9 Building, inter alia, on relevant work carried out by other organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, the strategy calls for undertaking applied economic analysis, collecting lessons learned and experiences gained, preparing case studies and elaborating proposals and options for policy debate among member States and other stakeholders.

16.10 The results of this work would be considered by thematic groups of experts and time-bound task forces, involving representatives of governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders, which would provide a platform for exchanges of national policy experiences and identification of best practices. Subsequently, those outputs would be brought to the attention of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which would serve as a forum for policy dialogue among member States and elaborate relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and standards. The results of the work carried out under the subprogramme would be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders. Those results would also serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops, with a view to assisting member States, upon their request, in particular countries with economies in transition, including emerging market economies, in the adaptation and application of best practices and the implementation of guidelines, standards and policy recommendations emanating from the Committee.

Legislative mandates*

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/1434/Rev.1 Workplan on ECE reform

* The following mandates are additional to those included in document A/59/6/Rev.1.

Subprogramme 4
Economic Cooperation and Integration

General Assembly resolutions

58/230	Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development
59/4	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization
59/243	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development